

### NEXT STEP FOR VONSEN COLLECTION: DISPLAY

CATALOGING THE EXTENSIVE Vonsen Collection of Minerals is nearly complete, reports the department of geology. The next step for the collection—when cases are ready—will be public display in North American Hall.

### LIBRARY GIVEN NEW VERSION OF OLD ATLAS

THANKS TO THE GENEROSITY of Dr. William B. Stephens, the Academy library is in possession of a rather unusual book, according to Librarian Veronica J. Sexton.

The book is a reprint of one of the first atlases published by Rand McNally and Company. First published in 1876, the atlas was called the "Business Atlas of the Great Mississippi Valley and the Pacific Slope."

The reprint, now called the "Pioneer Atlas of the American West," contains facsimile reproductions of the maps and indexes of the original edition. The reprint volume also includes an historical text written by Dale L. Morgan, which talks about places which are shown in the map reproductions but which no longer exist.

### COMET APPEARS ON SCHEDULE

COMET AREND-ROLAND, as George Bunton and other astronomers predicted, appeared in the northwest sky in late April. First man to spot it in the Bay Area, as far as is known, was Roland Michaelis, Morrison Planetarium lecturer and, incidentally, Bunton's son-in-law. He spotted it from the Berkeley hills April 22.

Later observers described it as plainly visible at about 8 P.M., showing two tails which appeared to be pointing in opposite directions. The comet was scheduled to fade from sight in mid-May.

### DORNBACH DEPARTS

AFTER SIX YEARS on the exhibits staff, Charles Dornbach resigned, effective April 29, to take a new position with the United States Intelligence Agency. Charles leaves with the knowledge of a job well done at the Academy plus the good wishes of all who knew him. He expects a three-month training period in Washington, D. C., and then assignment somewhere in India.

### WHAT'S IN STORE FOR JUNE?

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, will be the date of the regular June meeting of the Academy. Featured will be Kenneth E. Stager, who will lecture on the Machris Brazilian Expedition of the Los Angeles County Museum.

### NEW MEMBERS

THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS were elected by the Council at its meeting of April 10, 1957:

Dr. Marv B. Allen  
Mr. William A. Bailey  
Miss Marion R. Connors

REGULAR MEMBERSHIP  
Miss Julie DePoister  
Mr. Joseph Dittli

Dr. Dorothee M. Haken  
Miss Grace E. Huntzicker  
Mr. L. M. McKinley

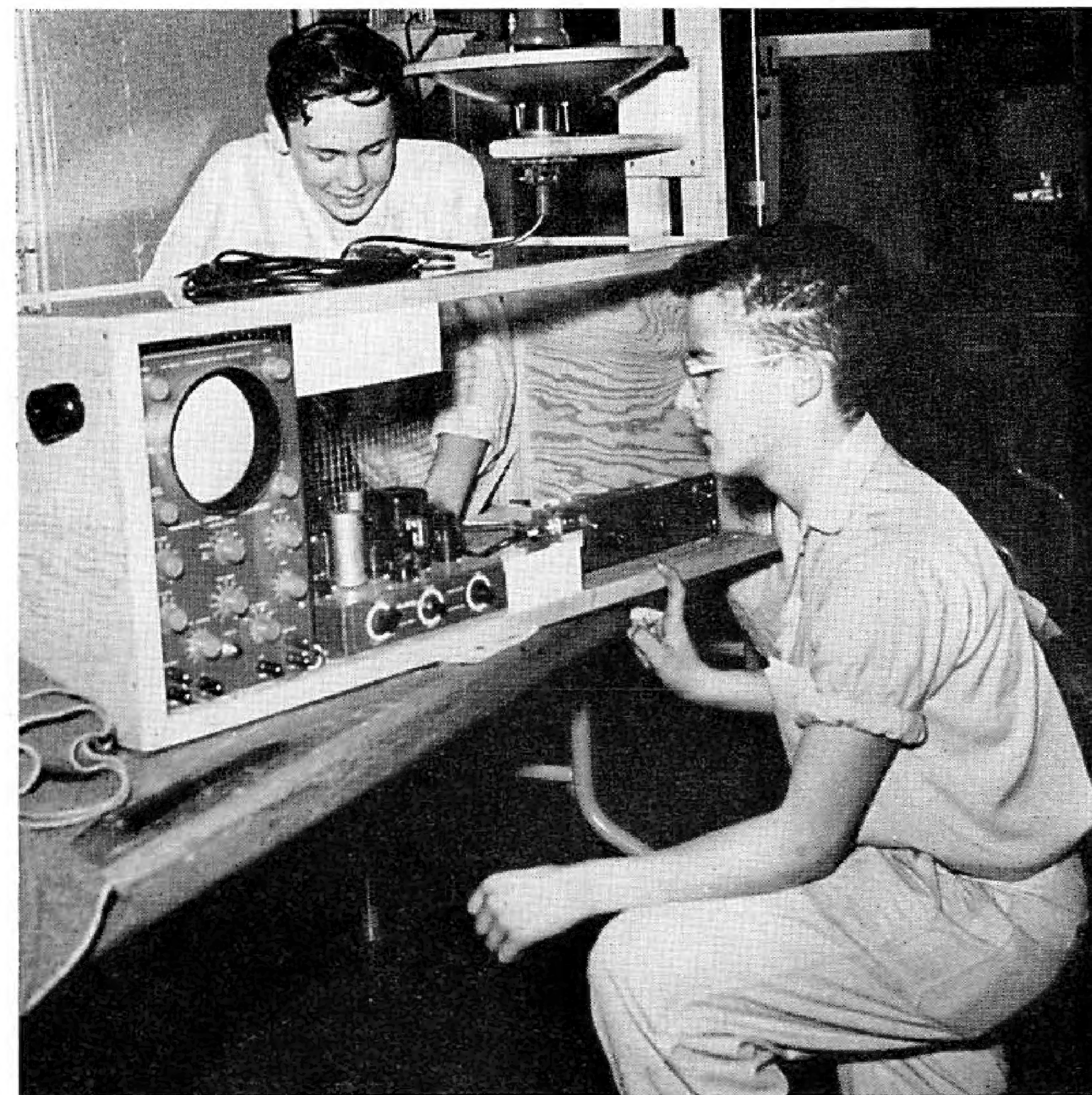
FAMILY MEMBERSHIP  
Mr. Randall A. Cогnetta  
Mr. Arthur M. Schaffer

STUDENT MEMBERSHIP  
Ed W. Kirschbaum  
James Lowell

# ACADEMY NEWS LETTER

NUMBER 209

MAY 1957



—Photo Courtesy San Francisco Call-Bulletin

YOUNG SCIENTISTS INSTALL ONE AMONG  
356 ENTRIES IN 1957 SCIENCE FAIR

(See Page 2)

Published Monthly by  
CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

GOLDEN GATE PARK • SAN FRANCISCO



# CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

GOLDEN GATE PARK • SAN FRANCISCO

1 1 1

## May Announcement

THE REGULAR MAY MEETING of the California Academy of Sciences will be held at 8:15 P. M., Wednesday, May 15, in the May Treat Morrison Auditorium. Two motion pictures from the Walt Disney "true life adventure" series will be shown:

### "THE OLYMPIC ELK"

AND

### "BEAVER VALLEY"

"THE OLYMPIC ELK" is an exciting nature drama which takes the viewer to the beautiful wilderness of Olympic National Park in the State of Washington. In the forest and upland areas of Olympic Peninsula, the life cycle of the majestic elk is unfolded. Traveling in large herds, the elk migrate each summer from the rain forests to the highlands, where they graze, breed and nurture their young. Disney photographers trailed the elk for two years. The result is remarkable color shots of every aspect of the elk's life cycle—from the time the calves first try out their wobbly legs until they are adults romping in the snowbanks beneath the lofty crags.

The second film, "Beaver Valley," is one of the first in Disney's true life adventure series. It tells a fascinating, authentic story of drama and humor in nature against the background of a secluded valley in the forest. In the valley, the industrious beavers live their busy lives, and the camera catches them both at play and at work building their homes.

Academy members and their friends are cordially invited to attend the showing of two of Disney's best nature films. Total running time for the two films is about one hour.

### SUCCESS MARKS SCIENCE FAIR

THE 1957 BAY AREA SCIENCE FAIR, held at the Academy April 6 to 10, can only be described as a "thoroughgoing success." Fair officials termed this year's event the best fair of the four that have been held in the Bay Area.

Some 356 junior and senior high school students from 12 counties entered their science projects in the fair. According to the judges, the 1957 entries showed a high level of scientific understanding among the student scientists, and the quality of the exhibits was markedly improved over those of previous years.

Another marked improvement was noted in attendance figures at the Academy during the fair. Records for Saturday and Sunday attendance were smashed. A total of 66,500 persons visited the Academy during the five days of the fair. Attendance figures for the same period a week previous totaled 38,500. The fair apparently brought an increase of 73 per cent.

Allyn G. Smith handled the Academy's end of the fair and he deserves much praise for a job well done. Arrangements, including the installation of permanent-type light fixtures, were smooth with little interruption of normal Academy activities.

Perhaps the success of the fair can best be seen in two prize-winning exhibits. The young scientists who submitted them are both 15 years old. Their exhibits were a "Tic-Tac-Toe Electronic Computer" and "Regeneration of *Bryophyllum calycinum*."

### "VORTEX—AN ADVENTURE IN SOUND"

ACADEMY MEMBERS with an ear for new listening experiences will be able to indulge their penchant when the Academy, in conjunction with Station KPFA, presents "Vortex—An Adventure in Sound" in Morrison Planetarium at 8:15 P. M., Tuesday, May 28.

Vortex is a medium for sound transmission, developed largely out of the current surge in the field of electronics. In modern society, most music originates from one direction—a stage, loudspeaker, or a group of instruments.

With Vortex, the audience becomes the focal point. From the Planetarium speakers around the room will come the sounds of nature, traffic, the home as well as music. The directions of the sounds will be changed and some will be gyrated around the listening area. Combining these effects with changes in modulation, a total world of sound will be created for the audience.

At the May 28 demonstration, the program will include several original tape compositions of "musique concrete"—music composed using electronic tape instead of conventional instruments—some unusual examples of ethnic music and collages of sounds from various other sources.

Academy members and their friends are cordially invited to hear this demonstration.

### ASTRONOMY SECTION MEETING

"THE APPLICATION of the Properties of Light to Astronomical Study" will be the subject of this month's meeting of the Academy's Astronomy Section. The meeting will be held at 8 p. m., Wednesday, May 22, in the Student Lecture room and will be conducted by George Bunton, manager of Morrison Planetarium.

### ACADEMY HONORED FOR ACTIVITIES

HIGHEST HONOR in the field of public relations, the Silver Anvil Trophy of the American Public Relations Association, was awarded late last month to the Academy for its television activities.

Presentation was made in Philadelphia April 26, with Benjamin Draper, head of the Academy's television department, accepting the award.

Cited were "Science in Action," produced by the Academy for the American Trust Company, and "Explorers of Tomorrow," the series designed to interest youngsters in science. The Academy's television efforts were judged best in the nation among educational institutions and organizations.

In addition to its two regular series, the Academy has engaged in a wide variety of educational television projects in the last eight years, all of which were considered in making the award.